

## Message Text

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SS - MR. BRIDGES

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UNCLAS STATE 233939 TOSEC 270461

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIAL TUESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 21 HEADED END OF AN ERA IN SWEDEN.

2. BY AN EXTREMELY NARROW MARGIN, THE VOTERS OF SWEDEN  
HAVE ENDED 44 YEARS OF RULE BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS--  
THE LONGEST TENURE OF UNINTERRUPTED POWER FOR ANY PARTY  
IN THE WORLD EXCEPT FOR THE COMMUNISTS IN THE SOVIET  
UNION. THE SCANDINAVIAN UPHEAVAL, NOT ENTIRELY  
UNEXPECTED, ALSO RETIRES TO THE OPPOSITION BENCHES IN  
THE RIKSDAG THE COLORFUL, CONTROVERSIAL OLOF PALME,  
STILL ONLY 49 AFTER SEVEN TUMULTUOUS YEARS AS PRIME  
MINISTER.

3. WHILE PROMISING NOT TO DISMANTLE SWEDEN'S EXTENSIVE  
SOCIAL SECURITY AND WELFARE SYSTEM, THE WINNING COALITION  
OF THREE CENTER AND MODERATE RIGHT PARTIES ATTACKED  
MR. PALME'S GOVERNMENT ON A BROAD RANGE OF ISSUES: HIGH  
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TAXES, INCREASED CENTRALIZATION OF POLITICAL POWER, A

SWOLLEN AND INDIFFERENT BUREAUCRACY, CREEPING TRADE UNION  
CONTROL OF INDUSTRY AND, SIGNIFICANTLY, THE PLANNED  
EXPANSION OF NUCLEAR ENERGY RESOURCES.

4. ON THE NUCLEAR ISSUE, THE CAMPAIGN WITNESSED A REVERSAL  
OF THE IDEOLOGICAL DIVISION THAT OFTEN OBTAINS ELSEWHERE  
ON SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS. IT WAS THE SOCIALIST  
MR. PALME WHO DOGGEDLY DEFENDED A PLAN TO BUILD THIRTEEN  
MORE ATOMIC REACTORS BY 1985; AND IT WAS THE CENTER  
PARTY LEADER AND PROBABLE NEW PRIME MINISTER, THORBJORN  
FALLDIN, WHO PROMISED TO KILL THAT PROGRAM--HE SAID IT  
WOULD RISK "THE LIVES OF FUTURE GENERATIONS"--AND EVEN  
TO CLOSE THE FIVE NUCLEAR PLANTS NOW IN OPERATION.

5. THOUGH THE SOCIALISTS HAVE NOT NATIONALIZED SWEDISH  
INDUSTRIES--HAVE INDEED GIVEN TAX BREAKS TO BIG BUSINESS--  
MR. PALME WAS ASSAILED FOR ENDORSING A PLAN THAT WOULD  
GIVE THE UNIONS CONTROL WITHIN 20 YEARS OF ALL SIZABLE  
COMPANIES. HE MAY HAVE BEEN HURT LATE IN THE CAMPAIGN  
BY ALLEGATIONS THAT NEUTRAL SWEDEN HAD SECRETLY BOUGHT  
ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT AND EVEN SATELLITE PHOTOS FROM THE  
UNITED STATES TO MONITOR TROOP MOVEMENTS IN THE SOVIET  
BLOC. SOME SWEDES WORRIED OVER THE FACT THAT MR. PALME  
HAD BEEN DEPENDENT FOR SURVIVAL ON COMMUNIST VOTES IN THE  
RIKSDAG.

6. MR. PALME IS YOUNG ENOUGH TO HOPE FOR A COMEBACK; AND  
A SPELL IN OPPOSITION COULD BE HEALTHY FOR HIM AS WELL AS  
FOR HIS PARTY--STILL SWEDEN'S BIGGEST BY A CONSIDERABLE  
MARGIN. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT THE OUSTER OF THE SOCIAL  
DEMOCRATS IN SWEDEN PRESAGES A TREND AGAINST THE MODERATE  
LEFT ELSEWHERE IN EUROPE--THAT IT IS LIKELY, FOR EXAMPLE,  
TO INFLUENCE WEST GERMANY'S ELECTIONS NEXT MONTH.

7. FORTY-FOUR YEARS IS A LONG TIME IN POWER AND IT IS  
OBVIOUS THAT EVEN MANY SWEDES WHO FOUND MUCH TO ADMIRE  
IN THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC RECORD FELT THAT IT WAS LONG  
ENOUGH. ROBINSON

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